Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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EUR/SOV FOR GARRISON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT: RECREATIONAL BOATING

REF: LENINGRAD 819 AND SUBSEQUENT COMMUNICATIONS

1. AS THE WINTER ICE BEGINS TO THAW IN LENINGRAD WATERS, OUR THOUGHTS TURN ONCE AGAIN TO QUESTION OF RECREATIONAL BOATING. WE STILL STRONGLY FEEL THAT SOVIETS MUST GIVE WAY ON RECIPROCALLY IMPROVING OUR AREA OF UTILIZATION IF CONSUL GENERAL ZINCHUK IN SAN FRANCISCO IS TO RECEIVE HIS DESIDERATA. THESE WERE WELL DEFINED IN A FEBRUARY 3, 1975 LETTER TO ME FROM MRS. BERNICE BEHRENS, DIRECTOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO RECEPTION CENTER. INTER ALIA, MRS. BEHRENS SAID "RELATIVE TO THE USE OF YOUR BOAT, CONSUL GENERAL ZINCHUK'S BOAT HAS NOT YET ARRIVED FROM VLADIVOSTOK BUT IT IS EXPECTED ANY TIME. HE IS VERY EAGER TO USE IT ON THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY. IT IS MY CONSIDERED OPINION THAT HE WILL PRESS FOR A SOLUTION TO THE STALEMATE WHICH NOW EXISTS."

2. I TRUST THAT MRS. BEHRENS WILL KEEP US ADVISED ON STATE OF ZINCHUK'S CABIN CRUISER, BUT I WILL APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S KEEPING CLOSE EYE ON WHERE THIS STANDS. ZINCHUK HAS NOT HESITATED IN THE PAST TO DISSEMBLE ABOUT OUR TRUE SITUATION HERE; INDEED, HE ONCE TOLD MRS. BEHRENS THAT WE HAD BEEN SAILING AROUND MERRILY FOR SOME TWO YEARS. IN FACT, OUR MODEST BOAT IS STILL IN PACKING CASES AND WE HAVE NO RPT NO INTENTION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PUTTING IT IN TROUBLED WATERS OFF ZELENOGORSK AND THEREBY LOSING

OUR LEVERAGE. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, ZINCHUK HAS ALREADY ASKED TO BECOME MEMBER OF SAN FRANCISCO YACHT CLUB, A CLEAR SIGN THAT SOVCONGEN ANTICIPATES CENTER AREA UTILIZATION OF BOAT.

3. I AM PREPARED TO ENTERTAIN NOTION THAT WE EVENTUALLY EXCHANGE OUR DINGHY FOR A POWER BOAT, BUT MAIN CONCERN AT MOMENT IS TO ENSURE THAT ZINCHUK'S DESIRE TO SAIL THE BAY WATERS BE STRICTLY DEPENDENT ON OUR BOAT'S BERTHING AND UTILIZATION IN IMMEDIATE LENINGRAD CITY AREA. NEUBERT

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